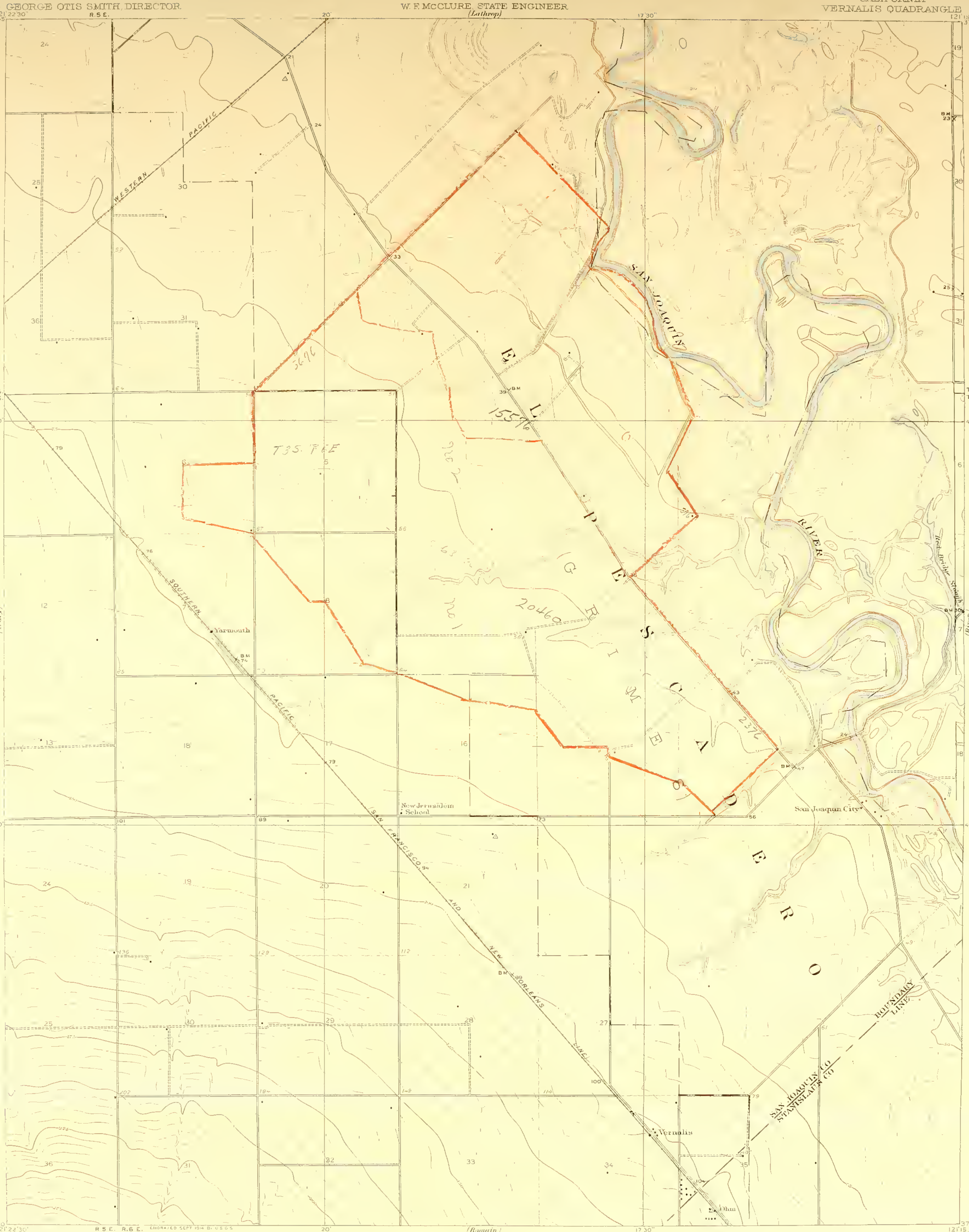
TOPOGRAPHY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HIRAM W. JOHNSON, GOVERNOR
W. F. McCLURE, STATE ENGINEER

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
GEORGE OTIS SMITH, DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA
VERNALIS QUADRANGLE



ENGRAVED SEPT 1914 BY U.S.G.S.

R. B. Marshall, Chief Geographer
Geo. R. Davis, Geographer in charge
Topography by Duncan Hannegan and R. B. Kilgore
Control by L. F. Biggs, W. H. Monahan and D. S. Birkett
Surveyed in 1912

SURVEYED IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Kilgore | Hannegan

Scale $\frac{1}{31680}$

1 Mile

5000 Feet

1 Kilometer

Contour interval 5 feet
Datum is mean sea level.

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION 1912

Edition of Jan. 1915

VERNALIS

THE TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States Geological Survey is making a topographic atlas of the United States. This work has been in progress since 1882, and more than 38 per cent of the area of the country, excluding outlying possessions, has now been mapped. The areas mapped are widely distributed, every State being represented, as shown on the progress maps accompanying each annual report of the Director.

This atlas is being published in sheets of convenient size, about 16½ by 20 inches. The four-sided area of land represented on an atlas sheet is bounded by parallels and meridians and is called a *quadrangle*. The quadrangles mapped cover 1° of latitude by 1° of longitude, 30′ of latitude by 30′ of longitude, 15′ of latitude by 15′ of longitude, or smaller areas, the size of the area mapped depending on the scale used. Several scales are employed. The smallest scale, that used for quadrangles covering 1°, is 1:250,000, or very nearly 4 miles to an inch—that is, 4 linear miles on the ground is represented by 1 linear inch on the map. This scale is used for maps of the desert regions and some other parts of the far West. For the greater part of the country, which is mapped by quadrangles covering 30′, a larger scale, 1:125,000, or about 2 miles to an inch, is employed. A still larger scale, 1:62,500, or about a mile to an inch, is used for quadrangles covering 15′, the unit selected for mapping thickly settled or industrially important areas. A fourth scale, 1:31,680, or one-half mile to an inch, is employed for maps that are to be used in connection with irrigation or drainage, and a few maps of mining districts are published on still larger scales.

A topographic survey of Alaska has been in progress since 1898 and nearly 30 per cent of its entire area has now been mapped. One-third of the area mapped, or 10 per cent of the Territory, has been covered only by reconnaissance work, the results of which have been mapped on a scale of about 10 miles to an inch. The maps of nearly all the remaining two-thirds of the surveyed area have been published on a scale of 1:250,000, or about 4 miles to an inch. These maps are large, each representing 2° of latitude by 4° of longitude. A few areas that are of economic importance, aggregating about 3,000 square miles, have been surveyed in greater detail and mapped on a scale of 1:62,500, or about a mile to an inch.

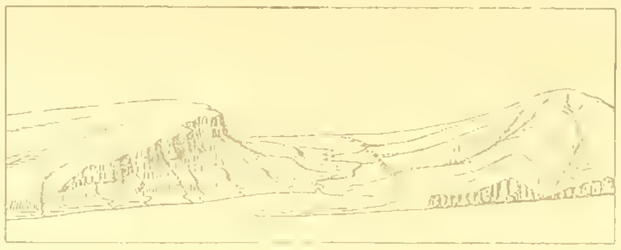
A survey of the Hawaiian Islands was begun in 1910 and the resulting maps are being published on a scale of 1:62,500.

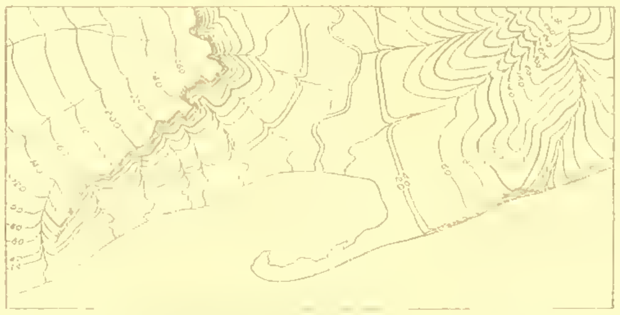
The features shown on these atlas sheets or maps may be classed in three groups—(1) *water*, including seas, lakes, rivers, canals, swamps, and other bodies of water; (2) *relief*, including mountains, hills, valleys, and other elevations and depressions; (3) *culture* (works of man), such as towns, cities, roads, railroads, and boundaries. The conventional signs used for these features are shown below, with explanations. Variations appear on some earlier maps.

All water features are printed in *blue*, the smaller streams and canals in full blue lines and the larger streams, lakes, and the sea in blue water-lining. Intermittent streams—those whose beds are dry at least three months in the year—are shown by lines of dots and dashes.

Relief is shown by contour lines in *brown*. A contour on the ground passes through points that have the same altitude. One who follows a contour will go neither uphill nor downhill but on a level. The contour lines on the map show not only the shapes of the hills, mountains, and valleys but also their elevations. The line of the sea coast itself is a contour line, the datum or zero of elevation being mean sea level. The contour at, say, 20 feet above sea level would be the shore line if the sea were to rise or the land to sink 20 feet. On a gentle slope this contour is far from the present coast; on a steep slope it is near the coast. Where successive contour lines are far apart on the map they indicate a gentle slope; where they are close together they indicate a steep slope; and where they run together in one line they indicate a cliff.

The manner in which contour lines express altitude, form, and grade is shown in the figure below.





The sketch represents a river valley between two hills. In the foreground is the sea, with a bay that is partly inclosed by a hooked sand bar. On each side of the valley is a terrace into which small streams have cut narrow gullies. The hill on the right has a rounded summit and gently sloping spurs separated by ravines. The spurs are truncated at their lower ends by a sea cliff. The hill on the left terminates abruptly at the valley in a steep scarp. It slopes gradually back away from the scarp and forms an inclined table-land, which is traversed by a few shallow gullies. On the map each of these features is indicated, directly beneath its position in the sketch, by contour lines.

The contour interval, or the vertical distance in feet between one contour and the next, is stated at the bottom of each map. This interval differs according to the character of the area mapped; in a flat country it may be as small as 5 feet; in a mountainous region it may be 250 feet. Certain contour lines, every fourth or fifth one, are made heavier than the others and are accompanied by figures stating elevation above sea level. The heights of many points, such as road corners, summits, surfaces of lakes, and bench marks, are also given on the map in figures, which express the elevations to the nearest foot only. More exact elevations of bench marks, as well as geodetic coordinates of triangulation stations, are published in bulletins issued by the Geological Survey. A bulletin pertaining to any State may be had on application.

The works of man are shown in *black*, in which color all lettering also is printed. Boundaries, such as those of a State, county, city, land grant, township, or reservation, are shown by continuous or broken lines of different kinds and weights. Public and through roads are shown by fine double lines; private and poor roads by dashed double lines; trails by dashed single lines.

Each quadrangle mapped for the topographic atlas is designated by the name of a principal town or of some prominent natural feature within the quadrangle, and on the margins of the maps are printed the names of adjoining quadrangles for which atlas sheets have been published or are in preparation. The sheets are sold at 10 cents each in lots of less than 50 copies or at 6 cents each in lots of 50 or more copies, whether of the same or of different sheets.

The topographic map is the base on which the geology and the mineral resources of a quadrangle are represented, the maps showing these features being bound together, with a description of the quadrangle, to form a folio of the Geologic Atlas of the United States. Circulars showing by index maps the published topographic atlas sheets and geologic folios covering any State or region will be sent free on application.

Applications for maps or folios should be accompanied by cash—the exact amount—or by post-office money order and should be addressed to—

THE DIRECTOR,

United States Geological Survey,

Washington, D. C.

January, 1913.

CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

54. Jan. 4, 1921. Amended map of the proposed Kasson Irrigation District

1921